

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy
(SNC)
Proposition 84
Grant Application Process
2008/09
July 30 and 31 Webinars**



SNC Grant Application Process Webinar Agenda

- Applying for a Grant (30 min.)
 - Q & A
- CEQA/NEPA and SNC Applications (60 min.)
 - Q & A
- Reporting for Performance Measures (30 min.)
 - Q & A
- Conclusion (5 min.)



Applying for a Grant



Marji Feliz



Grants Guidelines Revisions 2008/09

- Grant Categories (p.6)
- Funding Allocation (p.4)
 - Among Grant Categories
 - By Grant Rounds (SOGs)
- Flow Chart (p.6)



SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
Proposition 84 Grants Guidelines
FY 08-09

Competitive Grants

- \$7 million for entire SNC Region
- Application deadline September 15, 2008
- For grants between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000
- Eligible project types include acquisition and site improvement/restoration
- Authorized by SNC Board in March 2009

Strategic Opportunity Grants (SOGs)

- \$1 million per Subregion (\$6 million total)
- \$1 million for projects of Region-wide significance
- Application deadlines September 2, 2008 and February 27, 2009
- Authorized by SNC Board in December 2008 and June 2009

SOG Category 1 (SOG 1)

- For grants \$5,000 to \$250,000
- For acquisition and site improvement/restoration projects only
- Authorized by the SNC Board

SOG Category 2 (SOG 2)

- For grants up to \$500,000
- For projects that do not include acquisition or site improvement/restoration
- Authorized by the SNC Board (or by Executive Officer for time-sensitive grants up to \$50,000)



Grants Guidelines Revisions 2008/09 (continued)

- Scoring and Evaluation Criteria (pp.18-27)
- Competitive and Strategic Opportunity Grant (SOG) 1 Scoring Values (pp.18-23)
- CEQA/Appraisal Requirements (p.16)
- Repayment of Loans (p.13)
- “On the Ground” Project Preference (pp.4-5)



Grants Guidelines Revisions 2008/09 (continued)

- Disclosure of Project Scores/Ranks (p.23 and 27)
- Other
 - Performance Measures (p.9)
 - SOG 2 Project Categories (p.12)
 - Land Tenure (p.15)



Grants Application Packets (GAPs) Revisions 2008/09

- Three GAPs vs. One
- Encompasses All Changes from Grants Guidelines
- Lots of Clarification Changes
- Added Information about Grant Provisions, Eligible and Ineligible Costs
- Pre-Application Process More Formalized



Grants Application Packets Revisions 2008/09 (continued)

- Clarified Submittal Process
- Checklist to be Submitted with Application
 - More Detailed Instructions
 - Many New or Revised Items
- Glossary Expanded



How to Apply

- Review Grants Guidelines
- Pre-Application Assistance Is Available
 - Contact with SNC Staff Encouraged
 - Pre-Application Submittal Encouraged
- Use the Appropriate GAP



How to Apply (continued)

- Use the Forms
 - Application Checklist Form
 - Application Form
 - Project Summary Form
 - Executive Officer Authorization Request Form (SOG 2 ONLY)
- Choose Performance Measures
 - Refer to Appendix C



How to Apply (continued)

- Refer to Sample Grant Agreements
- Submit Complete Application
 - One Unbound Original
 - Two Bound Copies
 - One CD
- Submit on Time
 - In the Auburn office by 5:00 p.m. on due date **OR**
 - Postmarked no later than due date



Questions & Answers



California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance



Bob Kingman



Purpose:

Information contained in this presentation is intended to inform grant applicants of the Conservancy's obligation to comply with CEQA. It contains an overview of options to address environmental review documentation and is not intended to be a comprehensive source.



An informational guide containing information and hyperlinks to useful reference sites has been prepared and is available for downloading from the SNC Web site.



California Environmental Quality Act “CEQA”

- CEQA is the environmental review process California public agencies must use to evaluate “projects”
- Public agencies approve or deny CEQA “projects”
- The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency and is subject to CEQA when making discretionary decisions to provide financial support to entities for activities subject to CEQA.
- CEQA is similar but distinct from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



How CEQA Defines a Project

- A “project” means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.
- An activity which is funded, in whole or in part, through public agency contracts, **grants**, subsidies, loans, or other assistance from a public agency.



Non-Projects

Many activities are not subject to CEQA because they do not meet the definition of a “project”.

If you believe the activity for which you are seeking a grant is not a “project”, please indicate clearly in your application.



Categorical Exemptions

Many activities have been determined to be “Categorically Exempt” from CEQA and require filing a simple “Notice of Exemption”.

Please consult the CEQA Guidelines for a complete list of Categorically Exempt activities and instructions on how and where to file a “Notice of Exemption”.



Beyond the Categorical Exemption

Activities that could potentially result in environmental impacts require more extensive environmental review and documentation.

- Negative Declaration
- Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Environmental Impact Report



SNC Proposition 84 Grants Program and CEQA Compliance



SNC Proposition 84 Grants Program and CEQA Compliance

- All projects funded by the SNC must meet the requirements of CEQA.
- The CEQA process must be completed by a California public agency (tribal, local or state agency).



SNC role in CEQA and Proposition 84 Grant Awards

- Generally, the SNC Board acts as a Responsible Agency per CEQA and authorizes grants for projects that have already been approved by a Lead Agency (California public agency)
- In specific circumstances, the SNC Board may act as a Lead Agency. Contact SNC staff for additional information.
- SNC may award grants to analyze projects, conduct necessary survey work, and prepare CEQA documentation.



Application Submittal and CEQA:

One of the following documents must be submitted with the application if an activity is considered a project per CEQA:

- Notice of Exemption with stamp from State Clearinghouse (unless SNC agrees to file),
- An Adopted Negative Declaration (ND),
- An Adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND),
- An Adopted Environmental Impact Report (EIR);



Non-profit Grant Applicants:

- Activities that are “Non-Projects” or “Categorical Exemptions” should be identified clearly in the application and may be submitted with a request for SNC to act as Lead Agency.
- Any activity that meets the definition of a “project” per CEQA beyond a categorical exemption must be reviewed and approved by a state or local agency prior to grant submittal.
- A partnership with a local and/or state agency can assist in completing the CEQA review process prior to grant submittal.



CEQA & the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Applies to:

Federal Agencies

Projects Proposed on Federal Lands

Projects using Federal Funding



NEPA & CEQA

- Although similar, NEPA and CEQA are not interchangeable.
- In most cases, an equivalent CEQA document will be required if one of the following NEPA documents has been completed.
 - Categorical Exclusion (CE)
 - Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



NEPA & CEQA

When a project requires compliance with both CEQA and NEPA, the SNC may act as a Responsible Agency and use an EIS or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) rather than require the federal agency to prepare an EIR or Negative Declaration if the following conditions occur:

- (1) An EIS or Environmental Assessment will be adopted before an EIR or Negative Declaration would otherwise be completed for the project; and
- (2) The EIS or Environmental Assessment complies with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines. **OR**
- (3) A joint CEQA/NEPA document has been prepared and adopted.



Additional Permits

Many projects may require securing permits from regulatory agencies prior to commencing work. Please refer to the informational guide on the SNC Web site for commonly required permits, and consult with issuing agencies for advice and compliance.



Conclusion

CEQA is unique for every situation. Please contact SNC staff for any CEQA questions related to your project application.



Questions & Answers



Performance Measures



Joan Keegan



Why Performance Measures?

- Gauging project results
- Promoting learning and improvement
- Comparing results across projects
- Measuring SNC program results
- Making the case for future investment



Part of Project Reporting

- Qualitative or narrative reporting
- Quantitative reporting
 - 4 PMs for all projects
 - 1 to 3 additional PMs for each individual project



Narrative Reporting

- Most Significant Accomplishment
- WOW Factor
- Design and Implementation: Lessons Learned
- Indirect Impact
- Collaboration and Conflict Reduction
- Capacity-Building
- Challenges
- Photographs, video and other media
- Post-Grant Plans
- Post-Grant Contact



PMs for All Projects

- People Reached
- Resources Leveraged
- Jobs Created
- New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities



Selecting Additional PMs for Your Project

- Refer back to project category
- Look at the list of recommended PMs for your category
- Find further detail in PM data sheets
 - On SNC Web site August 6th



PMs by Project Category

Acquisition

- Acres of Land Conserved

Site Improvement

- Acre Feet of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Cubic Feet per Second of Streamflow Improved
- Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved
- Mass of Pollutants Reduced Per Year



PMs by Project Category (cont.)

Site Improvement or Acquisition

- Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created
- Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored
- Number of New Recreation Access Points
- Number of Special Significance Sites Protected or Preserved
- Tons of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided



PMs by Project Category (cont.)

Monitoring/Research

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments

Planning

- Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments
- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation



PMs by Project Category (cont.)

Education/Interpretation

- Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behaviors

Pre-Project Due Diligence

- Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting Project implementation



Proposing a New PM

- Consult with SNC staff
- Think it through
 - Clear definition
 - Data collection method(s)
 - Data sources
- Requires SNC approval



Build PMs Into Your Proposal

- Build PM data collection and reporting into project workplan and budget
- Identify your targets



Questions & Answers



In Conclusion

- Application Deadlines
 - September 2 Round 1 SOGs
 - September 15 Competitive Grants
 - February 27 Round 2 SOGs
- Web Info:
 - <http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov/grants.html>

